

HOUSE RESOLUTION 60

By Hawk

A RESOLUTION relative to funding for the Erwin Fish Hatchery.

WHEREAS, the Erwin Fish Hatchery was created by an Act of Congress in 1894 and opened in November 1897; and

WHEREAS, for these 113-plus years, the Erwin Fish Hatchery has played a vital role in the development and growth of Erwin and Unicoi County by producing high quality, disease-free rainbow trout eggs that support fishery mitigation stocking, tribal stocking, and stocking of federal and state waters; and

WHEREAS, the Erwin Fish Hatchery provides tours for thousands of tourists annually, provides a home for Unicoi County's Heritage Museum, and partners with the Town of Erwin and TWRA to sponsor the annual Youth Outdoor Fishing Adventure for over 300 kids; and

WHEREAS, the Erwin Fish Hatchery creates a tremendous economic impact for the Town of Erwin, generating seventeen jobs, producing state and local tax revenue of \$48,294.00, and a total local economic output of \$1,531,934.00; and

WHEREAS, almost \$20 million in federal, state, and local tax revenue is generated annually by six National Fish Hatcheries. This represents a return to the federal treasury of 2.33 times more than the amount of funds necessary to operate these hatcheries; and

WHEREAS, these funds are used to fund beneficial federal programs that do not pay for themselves, so continuing to operate these six hatcheries makes good business sense; and

WHEREAS, eyed egg production and distribution from the Erwin National Fish Hatchery and the resulting trout stocking across the Southeast region generate employment for 3,277 people with a total economic output of \$298 million, a return of \$67.00 for every tax dollar spent; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that this body hereby opposes any reduction of funding for the National Fish Hatchery Operations that would result in the closing of Erwin National Fish Hatchery and encourage Tennessee's Congressional delegation, and especially Senator Lamar Alexander, Senator Bob Corker, and Congressman Phil Roe, to support federal funding for the National Fish Hatchery Operations-Mitigation for the 2012 fiscal year budget and strive to continue funding this worthwhile federal program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Barrack Obama, President of the United States; the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate; and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.